



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
2009 RHODE ISLAND
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
MEDIA RELEASE

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**ERNEST BORGNINE TO RECEIVE 2009 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD AT RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**
ACADEMY AWARD-WINNING ACTOR TO BE HONORED AT
FESTIVAL'S 13TH YEAR CELEBRATION ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 7TH

(PROVIDENCE, RI) Ernest Borgnine, who won the 1955 best actor Academy Award for his performance as a lovelorn butcher in the film "Marty" and is better known to a later generation of television viewers as the PT-boat skipper on "McHale's Navy," will receive a Lifetime Achievement award at this year's **Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)** in early August.

The award will be presented at the world premiere screening of his most recent film, director Greg Swartz's "**Another Harvest Moon**," on Friday, August 7th at 7:00 p.m. The location for the screening will be the Columbus Theatre Arts Center at 270 Broadway. Tickets for this special event are \$15.00 and can be purchased online at the Festival's website: <http://www.film-festival.org/Borgnine.php>

"Presenting Mr. Borgnine with the RIIFF Lifetime Achievement Award is deeply heartfelt for us at the Festival," commented RIIFF's Executive Director George T. Marshall. "He is such an amazingly accomplished actor; we are deeply honored to have him participate in this year's event. His work has touched millions and set new standards; becoming a vibrant and critical part of the American experience."

Previous winners of the **RIIFF Lifetime Achievement Award** have been director **Blake Edwards**; actresses **Cicely Tyson** and **Patricia Neal**; and actors **Seymour Cassel** and **Kim Chan**.

Borgnine, 92, the son of an Italian countess, was born Ermes Effron Borgnino in Hamden, Conn. He has appeared in 199 movies, including "From Here to Eternity," "Bad Day at Black Rock," "The Dirty Dozen," "The Wild Bunch" and "The Poseidon Adventure." His latest is the 2009 film "Another Harvest Moon."

He served in the Navy from 1935 to 1945, reaching the rank of Gunner's Mate 1st Class. He returned to the Navy in 1962 as the skipper of PT-73 on the television series "McHale's Navy," which ran until 1966, and also starred in the 1964 movie version. In 1983 he returned to television in the series "Airwolf," which ran for three years. Since 1999 he has been the voice of Mermaid Man on the TV cartoon "SpongeBob SquarePants" and in April appeared on the final episode of "ER."

Borgnine is the only living person who has won a Best Actor Academy Award for a performance given prior to 1960. "Marty" is the oldest film with a Best Actor performance

from someone still alive.

ABOUT THE RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL:

The **Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)** discovers and empowers filmmakers. Held in Providence, and locations throughout the state of Rhode Island, RIIFF is one of only a handful of festivals worldwide that is a qualifying event for the Academy Awards (i.e. "Oscars"). RIIFF incorporates gala celebrations, premiere screenings, VIP guests, industry seminars, educational programs, and award ceremonies into a weeklong extravaganza. Cited as one of the "Best International and Short Film Festivals in the United States," RIIFF is New England's largest film festival, screening a record 235 films. Its innovative programming, cultivated industry ties, and loyal audiences have made the Festival a strategic and desirable platform for film premieres, drawing hundreds of independent filmmakers from around the globe. This year's Festival takes place August 4-9, 2009.

For more information, write RIIFF, PO Box 162, Newport, RI 02840. Telephone: 401-861-4445, e-mail: info@film-festival.org, website: www.RIFilmFest.org.

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